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A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE SWEDISH MISSION

IN RACOON AND PENN'S NECK, NEW JERSEY,

BY REV. NICHOLAS COLLIN, D.D.

Copied from their Church Record, and presented to the Society by Col. Robt. G. Johnson.

By letters to the Arch-Bishop and Consistory of Upsal, dated the 8th of July, 1778, I solicited in pressing terms for my recall. I had then officiated for about 8 years within the Mission, to wit: as Minister extraordinary in all the congregations from my arrival, the 12th of May, 1770, till the 19th of Aug. 1773; from that time as Rector of Racoon and Penn's Neck; and since the year 1775 as Commissary of the Mission.

I had consequently not only served the usual term required for obtaining preferment at home, but I was moreover under absolute necessity of departing. The rents of the Church lands had by the depreciation of the current money, and the dearness of many necessary articles, fallen to a tenth part of the real value. The Congregations had suffered great distress from the War, and many of the more able members were as usual unwilling to contribute for the support of Public Worship.

There was no prospect of peace or civil order for several years, and consequently no hopes of relief, a temporary vacancy, though prejudicial to the congregations, was therefore inevitable; at the same time a saving of the little Church revenue after my departure would shorten this vacancy by adding to the support of my successor. All this was fully represented in the mentioned letter,

with an express declaration, if no speedy alleviation of my present distress would be effected, I should not even wait for the recall, but depart the next spring. It must be observed that my want of subsistence would not have been grievous if I could have drawn my Commissary salary, but this was impracticable, as all communication with Sweden was cut off by the dreadful disorders of the times.

After the seat of war had been removed from the Delaware, I obtained at least more tranquility, and therefore resolved to wait for my recall, repeating my solicitations for it by several letters for two years. My request was at last granted by his Majesty's gracious resolve of the 22d Nov. 1782.

The reason of this delay was that the Consistory had not sooner presented my petition, because the King had by a previous resolve signified to them his pleasure, that the American Missionaries should remain in their stations until the event of the war was known. Probably this arose from an opinion that the Swedish interest in America was considerable, and might in case of independency be of some advantage to Sweden.

In May 1783 I received this recall: with the greatest pleasure I should then immediately have finished a long and painful exile from my dear native country, but personal concerns and anxiety for the Congregations, determined me still to continue for some time; especially as the urgent plea of necessity had now ceased with the return of peace. I therefore informed the Consistory of my resolution to remain for a short time, until the Congregations could be supplied with a successor, declaring also, that in case his Majesty was pleased to continue the Mission, I was willing to take upon me the charge of the churches of Wicacoa, Kingsessing and Upper Merrion, which were becoming vacant by the recall of the Rev. Matthias Kutegren; as a new comer, however meritorious, could not be useful in that station, because of the extinction of the Swedish language; I also expressed my willingness to assist my successor in Racoon and Penn's Neck by all the influence I derived from long services and personal connections.

On this request his Majesty was pleased by resolve of the 10th of August, 1785, to appoint me Rector of the before mentioned Congregations, and also to leave Racoon and Penn's Neck vacant, until they should express their option of his Majesty's future regulations of the Swedish Mission. This was, that whereas the congregations in their present mature state must be sufficiently able to support their own ministers, and whereas they had nearly lost the language of their ancestors, which language was a prin-

cipal tye of their connection with Sweden; therefore the congregations could not in future obtain any ministers from Sweden, without a formal stipulation to defray the whole expense of the voyage in coming and returning, and to afford them a decent support during their continuance in the ministry." The King was pleased to add, that future Missionaries who might choose to go upon those terms, should not be entitled to the superior privileges of pensions and preferments granted heretofore to American Missionaries. The congregation of Racoon, yet feeling the distresses of a calamitous war, and being also involved in a most difficult enterprise of erecting the New Church, could not immediately comply with these conditions.

I therefore informed the Arch-Bishop that for the present a temporary vacancy was eligible, and that I would to the utmost of my power lessen the disadvantages thereof. It must be remarked that the Swedish government had already in the year 1773 by the Ministry of the Mission proposed to the respective congregations a partial reform of the former plan, to wit: that they should defray the expense of the voyage from London to America, and from here again to that place for their respective pastors; the Crown as usual defraying the expense from Sweden to London, and from thence home. The intervening war prevented any attention to this proposal. It was laid before the respective vestries on the return of peace: those of Wicacoa with its annexes, and of Christiana, resolved to defray the said part of the voyage, in case they should request the favour of Swedish successors after their present pastors; that of Racoon and Penn's Neck promised to contribute according to the ability of their less opulent churches. In the mean time the Swedish language decreased daily by the decrease of the ancient people. The Clergy themselves were sensible of the great difficulty attending the usual change of Missionaries every seventh or eighth year, and represented the matter in its true right to the Arch-Bishop and Consistory. The vestry of Wicacoa, Kingsessing, and Upper Merrion received with grateful respect my appointment to their churches, and acknowledged their great obligation to the King and his glorious antecessors for the tender care so long displayed for their spiritual welfare; and at the same time declined a continuance of this favour, as the great change of circumstances must hereafter make the mission a burden to the crown, and a painful task to the Missionaries, without an adequate benefit to these congregations, which had totally lost the language of their ancestors: they therefore signified that on my departure the mission would cease in their con-

gregations. The vestry of Christiana Church in like manner expressed their intention to chose for themselves after the Rev. Lawrence Girelius. The Congregations of Racoon and Penn's Neck, did not immediately resolve on this affair, but by my advice waited for a year, until the debt incurred for the new Swedesborough Church was somewhat reduced, by the rents falling due after my removal; and in the view of knowing how long the Mission might continue to the other Congregations, under Mr. Girelius and myself. The continual decay of the Swedish language by the decease of ancient respectable members; the probability of our speedy return to Sweden, the unpleasing situation of a solitary missionary, and the great expense of a probably frequent change of ministers, scarcely supportable from the small revenue of their churches, finally determined their coincidence in sentiment with their sister congregations. The Rev. Lawrence Girelius went home in May, 1791, with his wife and four children.

The Arch-Bishop of Sweden, Doctor Uno Von Proil, having submitted to his Majesty these sentiments of the Congregations, received the King's final resolve, which he communicated in a letter addressed to the vestries of all the churches that compose the Swedish mission, dated Upsula, the 25th of June, 1789, of which the following is an extract:—

"The King approving of the reasons that induce the Congregations henceforth to chose their Ministers, rather than to be supplied with Swedish Missionaries at the expense of the Swedish Crown, has thereunto given his gracious consent; and in consequence thereof permits the yet remaining Swedish Missionaries, the Commissaries Lawrence Girelius and Nicholas Collin, to return to their native country, as soon as their circumstances may render it convenient—at the same time the King from the love he bears to the Swedish name, appreciates unto all the members of these congregations, as in great part descendants from Sweden, all manner of felicity, spiritual and temporal, and will have them assured of his royal favor.

It shall also be my sincere wish and ardent prayer, that Almighty God may with his grace and mercies embrace the members of these Congregations jointly and individually; and that the gospel light which was first kindled in those parts by the tender solicitude of Swedish Kings, and the zeal of Swedish Clergymen, may there, while days are numbered, shine with perfect brightness, and produce the most salutary fruits.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and

the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with and over you all, wishes from a most sincere heart, Your affectionate servant,

UNO VON PROIL."

The first Swedish colony arrived in the year 1634, and was followed by three or four reinforcements during the succeeding years, till 1654. The Swedes acquired by a fair purchase from the natives all the western coast of Delaware from Cape Henlopen to Trenton, and extending due west for a distance of forty miles. Their first principal settlement was at Christian Creek, where they had a considerable Fort and a Church. After some years they formed considerable establishments along the river forty or fifty miles beyond Philadelphia, and had a church at Tinnicum, where also was the Swedish Governor's residence. The Low Dutch had some time before the arrival of the Swedes in America taken possession of the North River, and founded New Amsterdam, now New York.

They had also got a slender footing on the Eastern shore of the Delaware, and built a fort called Nassau, where Gloucester now is. This vicinity naturally created a jealousy, which produced contests, and finally open hostilities, which terminated in conquest of the infant Swedish Colony, as it was not supported by Sweden, which at that time was engaged in a war with several of the first powers in Europe. After the death of those Clergymen who accompanied the colonists from Sweden, the people became very destitute until on their humble address to Charles the 11th, King of Sweden, the Mission was instituted which continued without interruption till this time.

This Mission was composed of three different Rectorships, to wit: Wicacoa with Kingsissing and Upper Merrion in Pennsylvania; Christiana in Delaware; and Racoon with Penn's Neck in West Jersey. The Clergy consisted of the three respective rectors, and in the later times, a minister extraordinary or common assistant. One of the ordinary pastors was also Provost or Commissary, having a degree of superintending authority over the whole Mission.

The Extraordinary had from Sweden a yearly salary of thirty-three and one-third pounds sterling. The Commissary office has from the time of Mr. Saudin had fifty pounds ditto. The Crown bestowed every coming Missionary fifty pounds ditto, money to defray the expense for the voyage, and an equal sum on returning.

While waiting for preferment after their return, they had adequate pensions, the Commissaries one-third more than the others.

They also obtained very good employments; several having been rewarded with the best Rectorships in Sweden.

Till the beginning of this century Racoon and Penn's Neck made parts of the Congregations over the River: the first of Wicacoa, and the other of Christiana. In the year 1704 a church was built where the new Racoon Church now stands, and endowed with the lands yet preserved, to wit: the 100 acres of which Swedesborough makes a part, and the marsh meadow of six acres four miles from there down Racoon Creek.

Their first minister, Folstadius, was drowned in the Delaware in 1706. The second, Duren, died in 1713. He was succeeded by Abraham Lidenius, who also became pastor of Penn's Neck, a Church was erected there in 1717, and by Jaquet endowed with four acres of Land.

From that time both congregations have been united, and both conjoined in the commissions of the Rectors. By the unwearied solicitude of said Lidenius the Congregations were, after eight years consultation persuaded to purchase the Glebe in Piles Grove, which contains 235 acres, and cost One Hundred and Forty Five pounds. In 1724 Mr. Lidenius went home with his wife Maria Van Neman and three children. Peter Wanberg arrived in 1726 with Andrew Vindrusia, who as assistant had charge of Penn's Neck till 1728, when he died.

In 1741 Wanberg was promoted to the Rectorship of Christiana. The vacancy was in some measure supplied by William Matader. This person had come to America with Dytander, Pastor of Wicacoa, as Schoolmaster. Being a Student of Divinity, he obtained permission to preach and baptize children, and would by mandate from the Arch-Bishop have received orders from said Dytander and Wanberg, if the first mentioned had not in the mean time departed this life. During the vacancy the Moravians created a scism and built the meeting house at Old Man's Creek. Pastor Nasman at Wicacoa and Wanberg did however occasionally supply the Congregations. John Saudin arrived the 1st April 1748, with his wife and a young child, after a tedious and perilous passage.

He died after six months. Professor Kahn, who at this time by the King of Sweden's order traveled through North America, lived for the winter at Racoon and preached in the Church. He afterwards married Miss Saudin, and in 1751 went with her to Sweden. Eric Unander who came in as Minister-Extraordinary, became in 1751 Pastor of the two churches.* In 1756 he

* See page 113 for some account of the Mission during his ministry.

was promoted to Christiana Church. John Abraham Lidenius son of the before mentioned Abraham Lidenius, succeeded as Rector, after having since 1751 served in these Congregations and those in Pennsylvania; in 1751 he was recalled, but in the mean time died in Pennsylvania. His successor, John Wicsell, became Rector in 1762. Nicholas Collin arrived in 1770 as Minister-Extraordinary and officiated through the Mission, but especially at Racoon and Penn's Neck till John Wicsell's departure in autumn, 1773. Since that time in 1786 he was Rector of the Congregations. The Junction of Commissary has according to circumstances been connected with all the Rectorships of the Mission; it has been confirmed on these Churches, namely Sau din, Wicsell and Collin.

The hardships naturally attending the charge of Missionaries, have been felt in a superior degree by the Pastors of these Churches from the insalubrity of the climate,* the scattered situation of the people for 30 miles in length and 12 in breadth, and from the insufficiency of support, the ministers never had regular salaries; and the revenues from the church estates were small. My sufferings have been extreme, and in a great measure occasioned by the terrible disorders of the civil war. When this commenced the glebe was rented out for 12 years, and the Lots in Swedesborough were let on permanent ground rent. All was paid in the currency of the Congress, which from a constant depreciation became 150 for one, and finally sunk to nothing in the pockets of the unfortunate owners.

Besides many members of the congregation became extremely distressed by the ravages of parties, while the seat of war was upon the Delaware, and by the cruel animosities which kindled them to reciprocal injuries.

May God in his mercy ever for the future forbid such madness. May righteousness and peace forever bless this western world.†

For the information of posterity when the Swedish origin may be quite forgotten, I have left on record the above narrative, every person of reflection may judge how much the Swedish Mission has contributed to the moral civilization of this Young Country. This great blessing claims the more gratitude from all concerned as the kindness of the Mother Country has been quite gratuitous, and yet very troublesome. The total expense of the Mission for near a Century amounts to seven or eight thousand

* From the unimproved marshes on the Delaware and the several Creeks.

† The good members of the Swedesborough and Penn's Neck Churches did not partake in these wicked excesses.

pounds sterling, the Missionaries encountered great sufferings, by long and perilous voyages, by many years absence from their native land, peculiarly dear to Swedes; by the indigent circumstances of a Young Country; and by the difficulties of a clerical charge, where the interest of religion is not supported by law or public opinion.

May the incorruptible seed which Swedish Missionaries have sown in these congregations, sometimes with joy and sometimes with tears, produce abundant fruit of the spirit, and in all goodness, righteousnesss and truth,* and flourish an eternal glorious planting in the land of the living.

NICHOLAS COLLIN,

Late Commissary for the Swedish Mission, and Rector of Penn's Neck and Racoon, and yet Rector of the Swedish Churches in Pennsylvania.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 12, 1791.

The Society is also indebted to Colonel Johnson for a transcript of a list of members of the Penn's Neck Church, made out by the Rev. Mr. Collin. "The majority of the families" he says "attended Divine worship frequently, the others were coming into regular membership."

The list however does not appear to be entirely perfect, for he writes at the close—

"My intention was to have completed the foregoing register of the members, on the plan I begun; from which the number and connections may appear under an easy and comprehensive view. But my removal, and the changes that gradually took place, prevented it.

The Records of Baptisms, marriages and burials for Penn's Neck are by Mr. Wicsell placed on the Racoon Church book, because as his mention thereof is in the Swedish Records in this book, this Penn's Neck Book of records did not come into his hands before 1767, as the local distinction between the two congregations was never accurately fixed, some baptisms, and most of the marriages are by me recorded on the Racoon books."

It has been deemed unnecessary to give the particulars of the list of members, but the following are the family names included therein. The copy in the archives of the Society gives the num-

* Eph. 5.

ber of each family, and the date of birth of many of the individuals. The figures indicate the number of families or heads of families of the same name :—

Appulin,
Bertilson—2,
Baker,
Biddle (Beetle)—6,
Belderback,
Barney,
Barnet,
Barrett,
Brown,
Boon,
Burson,
Cabel,
Caleb,
Carney,
Catts—5,
Cripps,
Cole—4,
Dahlbo—16,
Delany,
Dennis,
Dellavon,
Elluis,
Floyd—2,
Farrow,
Gurining,
Gryffith,
Gardner,
Halfon—3,
Hardin,
Hawk (properly Haag) 2
Helms—2,
Hyler,
Hews,
Holston,*
Hooper,
Jaquet—2,
Justis,
King,
Kamp,
Keen,
Kitts,
Lawrens,
Lummus,
McGill—2,
Mecune,
Mackelroy,
Meredith,
Morton,
Parker,
Penton,
Peterson—6,
Poulson—2,
Pitman,
Rawson,
Risener,
Roberts—2,
Russell,
Savoy,
Saunders,
Sennickson—2,
Sevil,
Simmons,
Sparks—2,
Stanley—2.
Stedham,
Stiner,
Stephens,
Strimple,
Tossa,
Tuft,
Vanneamen—2,
Velin,
Webber.

[The following documents were translated for Colonel Johnson by the Hon. Steen Bille, Charge d'Affaires of Denmark, from a record book entitled "In the Lord's name a New Church Book for the Church at Penn's Neck: in which all Church matters are

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* In reference to this name Mr. Collin says "the proper Swedish name is Hollsten, but some call it Holsten, others Holson, as the English name all foreign names, and many here cannot spell their own.

duly recorded from the commencement of the year of our Savior 1750, by Ericus Unander."]

LETTER FROM PROVOST ISRAEL ACRELIUS.

WILMINGTON, *2d August*, 1750.

Salvo til:

My beloved Brethren in the Lord!

I have received on the 12th of last July, among various directions concerning the office of Provost, the following communication from the Most Reverend Doctor and Arch-Bishop and the Venerandum Consistorium Ecclesiasticum in Upsala:—

"As it appears, not only from written communications but also from printed documents, that, like the Ginzendorfian disorder, so also the sect of Mr. Stut has commenced to extend itself more and more in America, the Consistory cannot, on the present occasion, refrain from exhorting the Provost as well as other Swedish ministers, under prayer to the Most High for grace and assistance, to keep not only a watchful eye on this subject, but also to warn their hearers and faithfully to admonish them to hold steadfastly by that teaching and regard for the blessed word of God they have heard inculcated by their former beloved and celebrated teachers, and have themselves from youth up learned and comprehended. The Consistory has also, in reference to the above subject thought it proper not to pass over unnoticed, that the Missionary Magister Arfwid Gradjn, well known from his connection with Mr. Stut, who has resided for some time here in Sweden, has now, since he has been subjected to a public and searching examination, been forever banished the kingdom by order of the King, although a Swede by birth, and that he has in consequence been conducted under a guard outside of the limits of the country. The Consistory thinks itself the more bound to notice this as it presumes that the aforesaid Gradjn will under the present circumstances direct his journey to America and seek to disturb the Evangelical Lutheran Congregations there, perhaps under an assumed name, for such deception is not rare among persons of his character, it will on this account be necessary for the Provost, with the assistance of other Ministers, to keep a watchful eye on the soil lest the enemy gain an opportunity to sow mischief, as he has here, through the presence of Gradjn, exerted himself to the utmost in doing.

Recommending teachers and hearers to the most high protec-

tion of God, for the maintenance of purity in the belief, and of unstained christian conduct, we remain, reverend Provost,"

"Your most obedient, &c.,

(Signed) Henry Bentzelius,
Olof Celsius,
Matthias Asp,
Engelbert Hallenius,
Gab. Matthesius,
L. Bentzelstjerna,
Laur. Norgn."

We see by this, my dear Brethren, how our Lord God will finally tread down Satan under our feet, although he at times permits him to raise his head. Let us therefore diligently watch and pray that through Christ we may combat him and win. Let all our church deeds, as heretofore so also hereafter, be proven absolutely necessary and without any admixture of English, except in so far as such documents are to be recorded which admit of no translation. In all cases, however, the Latin characters will be the most useful:

1st. In order that those of our people who understand Swedish but write English, may find the church books easily readable; for no Swedish-American understands any longer the written Swedish characters.

2d. While these characters are also much used by the Swedes and are becoming more and more usual, so that eventually no others will be taught, and while such characters will bring back the Swedish language to its original form as written and printed; such as it undoubtedly was before the monks changed the characters.

3d. While a number of Swedish psalm books printed in Latin characters have by order of the Doctor and Arch-Bishop been brought over by me and are, on account of these characters, in such great demand that several of them have been copied off, and as an humble representation has been made, that all books, which hereafter may be placed at the disposition of the Congregations, may be printed like these for the easier instruction of the young; on account of all this I have thought it proper to adopt the Latin characters in the church books of the Christiana congregation, and in the belief that my beloved Brethren will in consideration of the above, find themselves placed on a level with their church. Our successors, who will still more appreciate the utility of this arrangement, will, I hope, not abandon it, and be-

sides do all in their power to maintain the mother tongue, which is in great peril of becoming extinct.

I remain with all possible love,

Salvo til: My beloved Brethren,

Your faithful servant,

(Signed) ISRAEL ACRELIUS.

On the 10th Sunday after Trinity, being the 11th of August, Mr. Erick Unander was introduced to the Ministry over the Racoon and Penn's Neck Congregations, in accordance with a royal appointment, dated Stockholm, 9th of July, 1750, brought over by the Minister Extraordinary, Mr. John Abraham Lidenius, on his late arrival, which reads thus:

"We, Fredrich, by the grace of God, King of Sweden, the Goths and Wends; Count Palatine of Hessia, Prince of Hirchfield, Count of Catzen Ellenborgen Dietz, Ziegenheyn, Nidda and Schaumburg, &c., &c., &c.

Make known that as the post of minister by the Swedish Lutheran Congregations of Racoon and Penn's Neck in America has become vacant, and the Minister Extraordinary, Erick Unander, has been humbly recommended to Us to supply it, on account of his great learning and excellent conduct, We have hereby, in virtue of this Our public order, graciously appointed the aforesaid Erick Unander to the Ministry over the Congregations of Racoon and Penn's Neck in America; whereby We graciously confirm to him all the privileges and rights his predecessors in the Ministry have enjoyed and exercised. All whom this may concern will act accordingly. In confirmation of which We have signed this with Our hand and affixed to it the royal seat.

Stockholm, in the Council Chamber, the 9th of July, 1750.

(Signed) FREDRICH.

[L. S.] (Signed) C. RUDENSCHOLD.

The following letter from the most Reverand Arch-Bishop and the M. V. Consistory, dated the 25th of July, has been read to the Congregation:

"The grace and peace of God our Father and of the Lord Jesus Christ be with the christian and honorable Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Congregations of Racoon and Penn's Neck!

From the letter of the Consistory to you dated 19th June, you will have perceived that though circumstances did not permit the immediate appointment of a teacher and minister ordinary to the Congregations of Racoon and Penn's Neck in the place of the late Magister Saudyn, the Consistory had not the less your souls' weal and safety at heart, and on that account made an arrangement that Erick Unander should undertake the above duties. The Consistory learns now with pleasure through your letter dated the 25th November same year, and received the 12th of last June, that the aforesaid Unander, at once, in the very commencement of his official career, won all your affection and confidence, on which account you demand and pray that he may be appointed your teacher and minister ordinary. In accordance with which the Consistory humbly made this matter known to His Majesty, when His Majesty graciously issued his appointment to the above ministry for the aforesaid Erick Unander, so that your wishes in this respect have been complied with. As it may be sufficiently gathered from all this that His Majesty, our most gracious King, approves of all that may in one way or another tend to the welfare and prosperity of the Congregations, the Consistory cannot abstain on the present occasion from exhorting you to act as becomes the laws and praise of God and at the same time it expects from you that in consideration of the grace which you from time to time experience, as also out of regard for your own souls and the spiritual welfare of your children, you will let such grace benefit you by a proper use of it and by following obediently the counsels and admonishments of your teachers. Let all the customs and manners adopted by you in the administration of the Congregations be used as they are by Congregations in Sweden. But above all let the customary devotional rites be diligently and reverently attended to, the holy Sacraments administered with the examination and instruction of the Chatechism, and let schools for children be erected among you, for all this will by the grace of God benefit you in strengthening your souls in the faith, in sustaining them in hope and in founding them in love. Thus you will also make your mission and your calling sure, and entrance will be given you into the heavenly kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

By so doing your teacher's satisfaction will be complete, whose labours among you will not then appear fruitless, the pious aim of the Consistory will be attained, and His Majesty, our gracious King, will retain for you his royal grace and favour.

Recommending you all to the favour and protection of God the

Most High, we remain, christian and honoured Congregations of Racoon and Penn's Neck,

Your most obedient servants,

(Signed) HENRY BENTZELIUS,
OLOF CELSIUS,
MATTHIAS ASP,
ENGELBERT HALLENIUS,
GABRIEL MATTHESIUS,
LAUR. NORGN.

UPSALA, 25th July, 1750.

On the 18th of May, 1752, a church meeting was held, when the following subjects were considered and resolutions passed:—

1st. The minister represented the impropriety of the great liberty generally taken by the Congregation in respect to the acting as god parents by the baptism of children, and sought in a speech to impress upon them the necessity and peculiar utility of this institution, and for this country especially.

2d. Two new church wards were chosen in the place of Jacob Van Neeman and Cornelius Cornelinsson, who both insisted on being discharged; those chosen were Jacob Cornelinsson and Olef Van Neeman.

3d. The meeting reminded the church wards that they should demand, without delay or regard to persons, the usual tax (4 shillings 6 pence) for the burial of strangers in the church-yard.

4th. It was resolved that the money collected at church service should, after being counted by the church ward, Olof Van Neeman, in the presence of the minister, be treasured up and annually accounted for at the church meeting, and entered in the church book.

5th. The minister stated that the inhabitants of Racoon had, at a meeting last year, given to the minister a horse and two cows, and that he wished to know whether this meeting agree to the gift; which was done by all.

6th. On a representation of the necessity of having new rails for the fence about the church yard, a subscription was opened and the money raised left with the church ward Olof Van Neeman.

7th. On complaint that the Minister did not receive his whole salary, Matthias Lampson and John Van Neeman undertook to collect what remained due.

As this church book did not get into my hands before the year

1767, from my predecessor in the ministry Johan Abraham Lidenius, I had no opportunity of recording my official acts in it till at that late period, besides I had no knowledge whatever of the existence of such a book and kept my record according to old custom in the church book at Racoon. Nor did I think it necessary on account of convenience to change the old place of recording, but continued the place of so doing till in the following year in the aforesaid book, in which my appointment, &c., &c., will be found entered. I have however found it necessary to record here the church meetings, resolutions and economical improvements which have taken place during my stay at this Congregation, which at first was greatly disaffected with me from a false report, spread about by evil disposed persons, to the point that I was not to be regarded as its minister, but was only to be appointed for the Racoon Congregation. This false prejudice disappeared, however, soon, and before I had for any length of time preached on every other Sunday here as at Racoon. The reason why this change in the records took place will be given in its proper place.

On the 25th of July, 1762, the first sermon in Swedish was preached by me in Penn's Neck; the next time in English.

The first church meeting of this Congregation during my stay was held here on the 17th October same year, when the following trustees and church wards were elected—

[Here follow the names.]

On this occasion I represented first to the whole meeting and afterwards to the church council, the necessity of having their church repaired, as both the gable ends were separating and ready to fall, no windows, and the roof on the sunny side entirely decayed. It was thereupon resolved that a subscription should be opened and the church wards should exert themselves to obtain signatures, and with as little delay as possible collect the money so that the work might if possible be undertaken that very autumn. This met at first however with many difficulties; principally arising from the before mentioned false prejudice entertained against me, so that the work did not commence before the spring of 1764, when the Congregation had begun to increase and form itself again out of the dispersed and fallen condition into which it, a good while already before my arrival, had sunk. With what danger and difficulty divine service was held during the two first winters in the exposed and decayed house, and with what sorrow and grief to the minister, need only be alluded to here.

On this occasion, inasmuch as no sextons were appointed, the church keys were entrusted to Hance Jaquet, together with the supervision over the church yard, with instruction not to permit the burial there of any strangers without permission from the trustees, and giving him the benefit of the fees, 4 shillings for every adult and 2 shillings for every child buried.

A church meeting was held at Penn's Neck after the sermon on the 12th of May, 1763, when the Provost Wrangel being present, he explained to the meeting the propriety of their assisting for one-half in building a parsonage at Racoon church, since they had divine service in common with Racoon. The inhabitants of Penn's Neck answered, that as they were much fewer in number they could not undertake as much as one-half of the costs, but would do what was in their power, and for that purpose demanded some time for reflection, which was granted them until the 23d of May next year, when a church meeting was called to take this matter into consideration, but no one appeared at it except Anders Van Neeman. The Provost Wrangel ordered me on this account, until a reply should be received from Sweden to an enquiry on this subject, to preach every two Sundays in succession in Racoon and the third only in Penn's Neck, and on this being generally agreed to at the following meeting of the ministers, I agreed to act accordingly. This proceeding created at first some misunderstanding, which gradually however disappeared again. The Congregation increasing more and more, the people found at last no longer room enough in the church, and an enlargement by the erection of an additional partition and of a porch was projected, and soon after built. In the autumn of the year 1765 the church council resolved, according to the demand of many persons, that a new partition and porch should be built and a subscription list was for that purpose opened, the money collected during the winter, and in 1766 the work completed and paid for.

In the spring of 1769 I represented to the Congregation and the Church Council the necessity of a third repairing, for putting planks outside, for the ceiling and plastering inside, for a new floor, for the repairing of benches and the construction of new seats in the porch and on the path, which were much missed in fine weather, as also for new roofing the other side of the roof. All this was admitted to be necessary both by the Congregation and Church Council, and Andrew Senickson, Esq., undertook to draw up a subscription list which, during the autumn and coming winter, should be circulated among the people by the church

wards, for the collection of sufficient funds to defray the costs of the projected improvements, but as this process was too slow, I took myself the list, and during three days' riding about in Upper and Lower Neck, obtained as we thought, a sufficient sum for the aforesaid repairs. The Congregation elected in the month of August 1770, John Beetle and Charles Green to be managers in prosecuting the work. A church meeting was held in September to inspect the church and decide on what repairs were necessary. Charles Green and Squire Jenickson were authorized to purchase the necessary materials and to contract with workmen, and John Beetle undertook to collect the money; but when the time for commencing the work arrived, no nails were to be had in the country, and the work had hence to be postponed till next spring, when it might be expected that nails would be imported from England, as the "non importation act" had been abolished.

The subscription list for these three aforesaid repairs will be properly entered in this book, if they ever should be obtained from the persons who have been entrusted with them; if not, I shall not be held responsible by posterity for their oblivion.

In regard to the Sunday collections taken during my time, they were treasured up by Anders V. Neaman of Salem for the first six or seven years, and expended by him from time to time for petty necessities and repairs of the church, without being regularly accounted for, the faithful discharge of the trust reposed in him never being suspected. John Beetle took afterwards charge of the money in the same manner, and has paid for divers trifling repairs, &c., as to old Brown for clearing the church yard and repairing the railing, also expended it in buying wine for the Lord's Supper, and for having ready a glass of wine in church for the minister when he had concluded his sermon; this I have of late found absolutely necessary for keeping my throat well, especially at certain seasons of the year, when the heat and cold are extreme, and also for a minister who is unaccustomed to preaching before breakfast; for want of which I often injured my throat during the first six or seven years.

I have never been able to obtain a permanent sexton in this Congregation on account of no one being able, as was said, to sing in English. I have hence been obliged to do without one as well as I could, sometimes having singing and at others none; but latterly, after becoming better acquainted with the people, I have had an opportunity to urge with success the establishment of singing schools, with which a commencement has been made

at Mananthan, and since then I have rarely been in want of singers. The only one who sang during the first year was Hance Lambson of Lower Neck, who always did his best when present and responded to the service.

N. B. I have not been able to obtain the subscription list for the new partition in the church, and on inquiry I was told that the list in passing through so many hands had been mislaid and lost by some one.

The third reparation has at last been completed this spring, and the greater part of the wages of the labourers been paid, whatever money is still due on the subscription will be immediately collected for paying the carpenter Dennies and settling other charges; the other carpenter, Erick Philport, has been paid. The accounts must be settled by the Congregation with John Beetle, the mason Green and Hance Lambson, who have had the whole proceeds of the subscription in their hands—amounting altogether to about £40.

A true translation from the Swedish, by

STEEN BILLE,

17th August, 1846.

PRINCETON, *September 27th*, 1748.

THE SOCIETY met at this place at 12 o'clock—the President, Hon. JOSEPH C. HORNBLOWER, in the Chair.

After the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved, the Corresponding Secretary laid before the members letters from Major JAMES D. GRAHAM, U. S. A., BENJ. F. THOMPSON, Esq., of Hempstead, L. I.; WM. RANKIN, Jr., Esq., of Cincinnati, Ohio, and BENJ. DUBOIS, M. D, of Franklin, Ohio, in acknowledgment of their election as honorary and corresponding members:—from Col. R. G. JOHNSON, first Vice President, transmitting a Medal stamped in honor of Washington—from DAVID M. BATES, Esq., Secretary of the State of Delaware in reply to the Circular of the Society requesting donations of State Papers:—from the Pennsylvania Historical Society—the American Antiquarian Society:—and various other communications referring to the operations of the Society.

The Secretary also stated that he had received from the family of Dr. J. S. Condit, the late Recording Secretary, and deposited in the Library, some interesting memoranda relative to the families of the earlier settlers on the east side of the Passaic, which he had collected.

The Librarian reported, that the Books of the Society had been removed to their permanent location—in the new edifice of the Newark Library Association—and considerable progress made in their classification and arrangement.

The Treasurer reported, through the Recording Secretary, that the balance in the Treasury amounted to $550 25, and that there was due from members for admission fees and annual dues, $1,336 68—as follows:

For Admission fees, - - - - -	$267 00
" Annual dues of 1846, - - -	118 68
" do. do. 1847, - - -	405 00
" do. do. 1848, - - -	546 00
	$1,336 68

MR. CHARLES KING, from the Committee on Publications, reported that the publication of the Society's periodical had been continued, and that nothing was wanting to insure its improvement but punctuality on the part of the members in transmitting their subscriptions to the Treasurer. He also reported that Mr. Field, having placed the MS. of his Paper on the Provincial

Bench and Bar at the disposal of the Society, the Committee recommended the immediate publication of the Memoir. Whereupon the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That the Committee on Publications be authorized to make the necessary arrangements for publishing without delay a third volume of "Collections," to contain the Memoir on the Provincial Bench and Bar, read before the Society by Richard S. Field, Esq.

Resolved, That to Members of the Society, subscribing for the work in advance of its publication, copies shall be furnished at the net cost.

Mr. Wm. B. Kinney, from the Committee on the subject, reported that they had caused the Library Room of the Society to be fitted up with shelves, and had made arrangements for other fixtures and additions, which, when perfected, would afford every facility for members engaged in historical researches.

Dr. Murray, from the Committee on Nominations, announced the names of a number of gentlemen proposed as Resident members, who were duly elected, and new nominations were received.

The order of business was here suspended for the purpose of hearing some statements by Joseph Henry, LL.D., respecting the organization, objects, and progress of the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, of which he is the Secretary.

After a full exposition of the scope of the institution, Dr. Henry proceeded to give an account of the various measures in operation for carrying into effect the principles upon which it was founded.

A number of original memoirs have been accepted for publication, and the first volume of the contributions is now in the hands of the binder, and will be ready for delivery to public institutions in the course of a few days. It consists of a single memoir on the antiquities of the Mississippi valley, by Messrs. Squier & Davis. A highly interesting addition to knowledge, resting on original research. In order to remunerate the authors for the expense which occurred in the investigations detailed in the work, the Institution allows them to strike from the same plates and type an edition which they may sell for their own benefit. No expense has been spared on the mechanical part of the volume—the best artists have been employed, and the execution will bear comparison with any book of the kind yet published in this country or Europe. Preparations have also been made to commence the second volume, which will consist principally of a series of original miscellaneous papers on different branches of physical science.

The librarian has been engaged in collecting statistics of libraries, and forming collections of catalogues and other works, required in carrying out the plan of rendering the Smithsonian a centre of bibliographical knowledge, where the student may be directed to any work which he may require.

In order to facilitate the study of American History, the Institution has agreed to publish, and distribute to our public institutions, a work, comprising a description of all books relating to America, prior to the year 1700, which may be found in the public and private libraries of Europe and America, or which are described in other works, together with notices of many of the more important unpublished manuscripts. The names of the different libraries, both in this country and in Europe, in which the books are to be found will be mentioned.

The expense of preparation of this work will be defrayed by subscription; and such is the estimate of its importance, as well as the confidence reposed in the gentleman, Mr. Henry Stevens, who has engaged in this enterprise, that subscriptions to the amount of $5000 have already been made by several public institutions and liberal individuals. Mr. S. has just sailed for Europe to commence his labors, and intends to employ a number of assistants in England, and in different parts of the continent.

Under the head of original researches, preparations are making for the establishment of an extended system of meteorolgical observations, embracing, as far as possible, the whole American continent. It is believed that the co-operation of the British government will be obtained, as well as that of several States of the Union. Also, a series of explorations have been established with reference to terrestrial magnetism, and other subjects connected with the physical geography of the United States.

It is intended to introduce gradually and cautiously the other parts of the plan; and indeed, according to the present arrangement, the programme could not be carried into full operation until after three years from next March. Up to that time one-half of the whole income is to be devoted to the building.

Dr. H. stated that almost every day furnished him with new evidence of the importance to the science and literature of our country, which might be made to result from a judicious expenditure of the income of the Institution. He regretted that in order to make provision for the accommodation of the Museum of the Exploring Expedition, as directed by the act of Congress, so large an amount of money was required for the erection of the buildings. The evil, however, which would result from this is in a measure obviated by the plan proposed by Professor Bache, and

adopted by the Regents, viz: that of deferring the time of completing the building, so that it might be erected in considerable part by means of the interest of the $240,000, which had accrued in interest on the original fund, previous to the year 1846. By a rigid adherence to this plan, it is calculated that, at the end of three years, after paying for the building, $150,000 will be added to the original fund, making the whole $650,000.

In connection with his remarks, Dr. Henry presented specimens of the plates and letter press of the first volume of the "Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge," and also a programme of the organization of the Institution: and, on motion of

Dr. MILLER, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society are due to Professor Henry for his interesting exposition of the nature and objects of the Smithsonian Institution, and that the programme of organization submitted by him be referred to a Committee of five.

The Chair named Messrs. Charles King, R. S. Field, Wm. B. Kinney, L. Kirkpatrick, and Rev. Dr. Murray, as the Committee.

The Special Business of the meeting was then taken up, being the amendment of the first by-law proposed at the last meeting by the Rev. Dr. MURRAY, substituting the *third Thursday of May* for the meeting in Newark instead of the "fourth Thursday." After some explanation from Dr. Murray respecting the inconvenience of the present arrangement, the alteration was adopted.

The Society then took a recess until 4 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Rev. Dr. MURRAY was called to the Chair.

Dr. CARNAHAN, President of the College of New Jersey, submitted to the inspection of the Society two ancient documents, viz:—

1. The original Commission of Jonathan Belcher, Governor of the Province of New Jersey, together with the box containing the Commission and the Royal seal. The Commission was elegantly written on parchment, highly ornamented on the margin. The box had been covered with morocco leather and richly gilded. The seal, unfortunately lost or destroyed, had been very large, as appeared from the place prepared in the box for its reception.

This Commission had fallen into the hands of the Reading family, descendants of Governor Belcher, and was presented to the College of New Jersey by James N. Reading, Esq.

2. The other document was the original charter of the College of New Jersey, engrossed on parchment, and certified by the signature of Governor Belcher and the seal of the Province.

President Carnahan remarked, that it was thought by many persons that the Charter of the College of New Jersey was given directly by George II. after it had been examined by his ministers. This was not so. It was given by Governor Belcher. And there is reason to believe that the Charter had neither been seen nor approved by his Majesty or by his Ministers before it was granted by Governor Belcher. Considering the spirit of the times, it was doubted whether a Charter so untrammelled and liberal in its provisions would have received the Royal sanction. This opinion, President C. stated, was confirmed by what occurred about five years after the Charter was granted, when the Reverend Samuel Davies was in England.

An incident mentioned in a memoir of President Davies, prefixed to an edition of his sermons, and re-published in several papers, would, if true, give us a different view of this subject. It would lead us to believe that King George II. received President Davies with great favor, and contributed liberally to the funds of the institution.

The anecdote, in substance, is as follows:

When Mr. Davies was in England in 1755 soliciting aid for the College of New Jersey, his fame was so great that when he preached in London, some noblemen, who had heard him, mentioned in the presence of King George II. that there was a distinguished preacher in London from the Colony of Virginia, who was attracting great notice and drawing after him crowded audiences. On receiving this information the King directed his Chaplain to invite Davies to preach in his chapel. The invitation was given and accepted, and Davies preached before a splendid audience, composed of the royal family and many of the nobility. While Davies was preaching the King frequently spoke to those near him, and they were seen to smile.

Davies rebuked this apparent unbecoming behavior, by pausing and looking sternly in the direction of the King, and then proceeded with his discourse. Very soon the same conduct was repeated. The American dissenter then exclaimed—"When the Lion roars, all the beasts of the forest tremble: when King Jesus speaks, the Kings of the earth should keep silent." The King bowed courteously and remained silent until the service was closed. It afterwards appeared that the King meant no disrespect towards the preacher, or the truths which he uttered. On the contrary, he was so delighted and enraptured with the eloquence of the preacher, that he could not avoid expressing his approbation to those near him.

He very soon sent an invitation to Davies to call on him. Davies complied with the request, and had frequent and familiar interviews with the King. And his Majesty, as an evidence of his approbation, made a handsome donation to the College.

This is a good story and well told; but unfortunately it is contradicted by the strongest evidence the nature of the case will admit. President Davies wrote a journal during his mission to Europe. This journal in manuscript belongs to the College. It is in two volumes. One of them in the handwriting of Mr. Davies came into the possession of the Reverend Dr. C. C. Cuyler of Philadelphia, and was a few years ago presented to the College library. The other, also in the handwriting of Mr. Davies, belongs to Hampton Sidney College, Va. Through the agency of the Reverend Mr. Foote of Romney, Va., a fac-simile copy of the volume in Va. was taken and sent to the College of New Jersey in exchange for a copy of the one in that institution.

The whole journal is in a good state of preservation and almost every word is legible; and it gives a minute account of the transactions and occurrences of almost every day from the time Mr. Davies left Hanover in Virginia until he returned to the same place.

He generally gives the date and the place where he was and the occurrences of each day. If prevented by circumstances from making an entry for a few days, he states what had occurred from the time he had made the last record. He is very particular in stating when and where he preached, the character of the audience, whether large or small, attentive or otherwise; and if a contribution was made after the service for the College he states the precise amount. He names also the individuals on whom he called, the reception he had, and what each one gave for the object of his mission, so that you can trace his steps from day to day, while he was in London; and you can follow him from London to Edinburgh to meet the General Assembly of Scotland. You can accompany him also on his return from Edinburgh to London on horseback through the interior of England, prosecuting the object of his mission, preaching, making collections whenever an opportunity offered, and receiving contributions from individuals, and in all cases noting the precise sum received. On his return to London he records the transactions of each day until he took ship for America; and he gives an account of his voyage home, which was a very boisterous and perilous one.

Now, in all this journal, minute as it is, there is not one word respecting his preaching in the King's Chapel, and he does not give his Majesty credit for contributing a single farthing to the

funds of the College. He does not say that he ever saw the King in public or private. He states explicity that he did not present the object of his mission to the King or to his Ministers. He had thought of bringing the subject in some way before the government, but when he suggested his wish to his friends they decidedly and with one voice dissuaded him from making the attempt, directly or indirectly, saying that if he did the Government would ask to see the Charter of Incorporation, and as it gave no control to the Established Church, there was danger that it might be revoked; and what rendered such a course probable was that Governor Belcher was not in good odour at Court. It was presumed that his appointment as Governor of the Province would incline him to advocate and maintain the prerogatives of the Crown; but he had espoused the cause of the good people of the Province and had dared to remonstrate against some of the acts of the Government touching the Colonies. Therefore, following the advice of his friends who knew the views and feelings of the Court, Mr. Davies took no measures to bring the object of his mission to the notice of those in power.

When Mr. D. left home he had some hope that he might obtain relief from the severe restrictions laid upon himself and his dissenting brethren in Virginia. But his friends in London told him it was not an auspicious time to agitate the subject, and he left his papers respecting their grievances in the hands of a gentleman favorable to his cause and believed to have some influence at Court who promised to do what he could, when a favorable opportunity offered.

In view of these facts, recorded in President Davies' journal more fully than are here stated, can any one believe that such an occurrence as related in the memoir ever took place?

It may be inquired, how did the story if it be not true, get abroad in the world? Dr. Carnahan would not affirm who invented it. Dr. Thomas Gibbons, of London, the intimate friend of President Davies, with whom he had daily intercourse while in London, who published a funeral sermon delivered on the death of Davies and who also superintended the first edition of Davies' sermons in 1765, did not originate the story; nor did Dr. Samuel Finley who also published a funeral sermon on the death of President Davies. The anecdote is not mentioned in an obituary notice by the Reverend David Bostwick, prefixed to Davies' sermons published in New York, 1792; nor did the late

venerable Dr. Ashbel Green in his notes respecting the College of New Jersey, although acquainted with the story, deem it worthy of credence.

The most probable account of its origin is, that an agent employed in the Southern States some forty years ago in selling an edition of Davies' sermons invented and circulated the story; and as it was not called in question at the time, it has recently passed for true history. So far as the reputation of President Davies as a Christian and a faithful and eloquent preacher is concerned the anecdote is of little importance. But if it be received as true it gives us an erroneous view of the spirit of the times and of the treatment of the Colonial dissenters by the civil authorities of England.

As it is the object of this Society to collect and preserve portions of true history, it is no less its duty to point out and reject that which is false.

Mr. W. A. Whitehead then read a "Biographical Sketch of Wm. Franklin"—the last of the Colonial Governors of New Jersey; on the conclusion of which, on motion of Mr. Wm. B. Kinney,

Resolved, That Mr. Whitehead be requested to furnish a copy of the valuable paper he had just read for publication in the periodical of the Society.

Mr. Charles King, from the Committee to whom was referred, in the morning, the programme of the Smithsonian Institution presented a report as follows:

The Committee to whom was referred the programme of organization of the Smithsonian Institution report, that having in common with the other members of the Historical Society listened with gratification and conviction to the exposition by Dr. Henry, of the nature and objects of the Smithsonian Institution, and of the means whereby those objects might most surely be attained, they turned their attention to a consideration of the programme referred to them.

And they unhesitatingly report, as the result of their considerations, their unanimous opinion, that in the general considerations set forth in the programme, as guides in adopting the proper plan of organization, the designs of the liberal founder of the Institution are justly appreciated, and the means of accomplishing those designs are set forth with great discrimination.

The fund is a trust fund for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men; the Institution created by this fund is not a national establishment, much less an establishment for promoting

local improvements of any sort. Its aim is to "increase knowledge" by the discovery of new truths, and to "diffuse" this increased knowledge by suitable publications. Its field is not Washington, nor even the United States, but all mankind.

Hence it would seem obviously to result, that all the funds so far as can now be done under the act of Congress incorporating the Institution, should be sacredly appropriated in such manner as to fulfil the views above indicated.

Entertaining these views the Committee would look upon any large expenditure for the construction or ornament of buildings at Washington as misplaced, as contravening the comprehensive and liberal designs of the founder, and as calculated to the extent to which such expenditures might be carried, to delay the period when the munificence of the endowment might become operative, in stimulating the inventive genius of men, and in aiding the efforts of enterprising individuals in diffusing the results of their discoveries and researches.

The details of the plans to increase and to diffuse knowledge, as set forth in the programme, seem to your Committee wise and well considered, and as eminently fitted to render the bequests of the liberal Englishman productive of its legitimate and highest results, in which not Americans only, but all men are so deeply interested.

Your Committee therefore propose these resolutions for the adoption of the Society:—

Resolved, That the Programme of organization of the Smithsonian Institution as explained by Dr. Henry, seems to this Society to lay down the most efficient and fitting means for rendering available in its highest degree the munificent endowment of the Institution and of carrying out the views of its founder.

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings duly authenticated by the officers of this Society, be transmitted to the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

CHARLES KING,
RICHARD S. FIELD.
WM. B. KINNEY.
L. KIRKPATRICK.
NICHOLAS MURRAY.

The report having been accepted, the resolutions were unanimously adopted.

The Society then adjourned to meet at TRENTON, on the third Thursday of January next, in accordance with the by-laws.

SELECTIONS FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE AND PAPERS

Laid before the Society, September 27th, 1848.

FROM COL. ROBERT G. JOHNSON.

SALEM, *June 12th*, 1848.

MY DEAR SIR—I send you a Medal stamped in honor of our immortal Washington.

It was handed to me by my friend Judge John Moore White, to be presented to the Historical Society of New Jersey, in behalf of his good wishes for its prosperity.

He told me that a number of gentlemen subscribed five dollars a piece to have a number of them made, and they were struck at the mint of the United States while Mr. David Rittenhouse had the oversight of that institution. Be pleased to accept the same.

Very respectfully your friend,

ROBT. G. JOHNSON.

WM. A. WHITEHEAD, Esq.

[The Medal is of silver, about the size of a dollar, but thicker. It has on one side the head of Washington, with the inscription G. WASHINGTON PRES. UNIT. STA.:—on the other a sword and a Roman fasces, encircled with laurel, are represented lying on an altar with the inscription COMMISS. RESIGNED: PRESIDENCY RELINQ. and the date 1797.]

FROM DANIEL M. BATES, ESQ.,

Secretary of the State of Delaware.

OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE,
DOVER, *July 13th*, 1848.

SIR—Your letter of the 15th May, addressed to the Governor of this State, was received some time during last month. In reply he directs me to say, that the proposition for an interchange of official papers and documents between the New Jersey Historical Society and the State of Delaware meets his cordial concurrence, and that he will take pleasure in presenting it to the Legislature of the State at its next session. I have the honor to be, Respectfully, your ob't serv't,

DANIEL M. BATES,
Secretary of State.

HON. JOS. C. HORNBLOWER, President N. J. Hist. Soc, Newark.

FROM BENJAMIN F. THOMPSON, ESQ.

HEMPSTEAD, *L. I., May 30th*, 1848.

SIR—Your favor of the 26th inst., notifying me of my election as an Honorary Member of the New Jersey Historical Society came to hand yesterday, and I lose no time in expressing to the Society my sincere thanks for this expression of their good opinion.

The enterprize and success which have thus far given prominence and distinction to your infant institution, are alike honorable to its members and an earnest of what it may accomplish in rescuing from oblivion and preserving in a durable form, those materials which will prove indispensable to the future historian of our country.

It is too apparent to have escaped the observation of any intelligent person that a knowledge of the early annals of each American Colony is a prominent object of attention in every part of our extensive empire. This fact is particularly evidenced by the numerous local histories already published, and others which are announced as being in the press. A proper spirit is abroad which it is hoped will not abate, until every fact is secured, which industry and research can achieve. The writers of local history, from the circumstance of being on the spot to be described, can with less inconvenience, and with more success hunt up and preserve those events of antiquity which would be overlooked by the writers of general history. In this way I have endeavored to discharge in some degree the duty which I thought incumbent upon me, and hope ere long to bring out an edition of the History of Long Island more worthy the approbation of the community than either of those which have been published.

As it is an important part of the plan of your Society to get together a library, I shall, as I have in other cases, forward to your care, for the use of the Society, a few volumes.

With the very best wishes for the prosperity of your Society, and the expressions of my personal respects to yourself, I remain your obedient servant, BENJ. F. THOMPSON.

WM. A. WHITEHEAD, ESQ.

FROM BENJAMIN DUBOIS, M. D.

FRANKLIN, *Warren Co., Ohio, June 20th*, 1848.

DEAR SIR—I will endeavor to answer the 12th question, in the circular and by-laws of the New Jersey Historical Society.

"The "Church of New Jersey" was organized in the State of Ohio, April 2d, 1814. I proposed the name and it was agreed

to, and it has ever since been known by that name. It was organized 34 years since in pursuance of a call by the emigrants from the State of New Jersey, and we named the church in commemoration of that event, as they were principally Jerseymen. It is still supported principally from the first settlers; and their offspring have been on the increase. We now enumerate over one hundred members of the old Presbyterians and support the present incumbent—Rev. John S. Weaver—the whole of his time. He was a graduate of Miami University, at Oxford, Ohio, in the Miami Valley.

After the church was organized, the Rev. Francis Monfort took the charge with the following ruling elders: Hendrick Lane, George Lane, and Tunis D. Vandeveer—all from New Jersey. The house of worship was built in the summer of 1815; two acres of land were donated in the woods for a meeting-house to be built thereon, and a burying ground. The first elders are all buried there. The donation of land was by Daniel Dubois, son of the Rev. Benjamin Dubois, of Freehold, New Jersey, who had the charge of the Freehold and Middletown churches for a long time, nearly half a century, died there, and was buried in the Freehold church burying-yard.

Names of the ministers in the order in which they took charge of the New Jersey congregation in Ohio: Rev. Francis Monfort, served 7 years; John Ross, 2 years; Adrian Aten, 6 years; John Hudson, 9½ years; John S. Weaver, 5 years, and he is the present incumbent. The ministry of each (who is gone) terminated by removal. It is more than probable the present incumbent will stay longer than any one has yet unless he should be removed by death.

I was born March 4th, 1780, and am the son of Rev. B. Dubois, in New Jersey. I will give a short narrative of my life and doings. At the age of 18 years I commenced the study of medicine: read 3 years, tended a course of lectures in the Columbia College, New York, and the Hospital in the City of New York in 1800 and 1801, being 21 years old March 4th, 1801. The May following I was examined by Medical Censors, Drs. Scott and Smith, of New Brunswick, according to the statutes of New Jersey—obtained my license signed by two of the Judges of the Supreme Court of New Jersey, Andrew Kirkpatrick, of New Brunswick, and Isaac Smith, of Trenton, and in the year 1801 commenced the practice of medicine. I practiced between 3 and 4 years in New Jersey, and in 1805 moved to the State of Ohio, where I have been actively engaged in my profession, and am

still doing a moderate share of business. It is now half a century or more since I commenced the study of medicine, and as I am the oldest surgeon in the neighborhood, it has been my lot to continue to operate, as my health and nerve are yet good in my 69th year. * * * * * *

I send you a pamphlet on the Duties of the Citizen to the Republic; a Sermon delivered by order of the Presbytery of Miami, by W. C. Anderson, D. D., Minister of the Fisrt Presbyterian Church, Dayton, Ohio.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

BENJAMIN DUBOIS.

Wm. A. Whitehead, Corresponding Secretary.

MEMBERS ELECTED

SEPTEMBER 27TH, 1848.

William M. Babbitt, *Newark.*
Lucius D. Baldwin, *Newark.*
Amzi Dodd, *Newark.*
Rev. John Forsyth, D. D., *Princeton.*
E. F. W. Gray, *Rahway.*
Henry McFarland, *Dover.*
Isaac S. Mulford, M. D., *Camden.*
Ezra Nye, *Clinton, Essex Co.*
David L. Rogers, M. D., *Clinton, Essex Co.*
Rev. H. B. Sherman, *Belleville.*
Frederick H. Teese, *Newark.*
J. H. Voorhies, *Jersey City.*
Rev. James A. Williams, *Orange.*

DONATIONS

ANNOUNCED SEPTEMBER 27TH, 1848.

From the Virginia Historical Society.—The Virginia Historical Register and Literary Advertiser, for April and July, 1848.

From the New England Historical and Genealogical Society.—The New England Historical and Genealogical Register and Antiquarian Journal, for July, 1848.

From Benjamin Dubois, M. D., of Ohio.—A Sermon entitled "The Republic and Duties of the Citizen;" by W. C. Anderson, D. D., of Dayton, Ohio.

From Mr. Charles T. Day.—Acts of the Seventy Second Legislature of New Jersey, 1848.

Journal of the Senate of New Jersey, for 1848.

Minutes of Votes and Proceedings of General Assembly, for 1848.

From Hon. Dudley S. Gregory.—Message of the President of the United States, with correspondence therewith communicated between the Secretary of War and other officers of the Government on the subject of the Mexican War.

The Congressional Globe and various public documents.

From Benjamin F. Thompson, Esq., of Hempstead, L. I.—

Catalogue of New York State Library.

Carlyle's Letters and Speeches of Cromwell.

Browning's History of the Huguenots.

De Tocqueville's Democracy in America.

Smith's History of New York.

Moulton's History of New York.

The Puritan's and their Principles, by E. Hall.

Coffin's History of Newbury.

Sabine's American Loyalists.

Lester's Artists of America.

Taylor's History of University of Dublin.

From Major J. D Graham, U. S. Topographical Engineers.—Three Newspapers containing communications in answer to certain charges of Col. Thos. H. Benton.

From W. A. Whitehead.—Journal of the Senate of Florida at its second session, 1840.

Journal of the Legislative Assembly of Florida at its eighteenth session, 1840.

Journal of the Convention for Framing a Constitution for the People of Florida, held at St. Joseph's, Dec. 1838.

American Almanac, 1845.

From W. A. Whitehead, on deposit and subject to his order.—The New York Mercury, from Sept. 1830 to Dec. 1843, in eight bound volumes.

The Congressional Globe and Appendix, from Dec. 1834 to Feb. 1841, in eight bound volumes.

From Hon. John M. White, of Woodbury, N. J.—A Silver Medal struck in honor of Washington, 1787.

From Hon. J. F. Randolph.—Executive and Congressional Documents and other State Papers—about 100 bound volumes.

From Hon. Jacob W. Miller.—Various Public Documents.

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

OF

WILLIAM FRANKLIN

GOVERNOR FROM 1763 TO 1776,

BY

WILLIAM A. WHITEHEAD.

READ BEFORE THE NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

September 27th, 1848.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

GENTLEMEN—Although I have consented to occupy a part of your time at this meeting, yet I feel that I should ask your indulgence for the imperfections which may be observed in what I am about to read. For being only a portion of a manuscript of miscellaneous gleanings in the forgotten past,* prepared with no view of being laid before the Society, it is in some respects of a different character from what it would have been had it been designed for a distinct paper. It may however afford some information not generally known respecting the individual of whom it treats, and serve to refresh the memory of those already to some extent acquainted with his life and character.

Dr. Franklin, identified with so much that is interesting in the history of America had one son. That son, WILLIAM FRANKLIN, was Governor of New Jersey at the period when, through the blessing of Providence upon earnest self devoting efforts, our country was happily enabled to throw off the oppressive burdens which the short sighted policy of England's rulers would have fastened upon her, and assumed 'among the nations of the earth the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and nature's God entitled her.'

William Franklin was born in the Province of Pennsylvania in 1731—but of his youth little is known. He early showed a marked predilection for books, which his father of course encouraged; but with advancing years the quiet walks of an academic life appear to have lost their charms in some measure, and a disposition was manifested by him to seek employment in the stirring pursuits of a military career. Disappointed in an attempt to connect himself clandestinely with a privateer fitting out at Philadelphia, he was subsequently gratified by the receipt of a commission in the Pennsylvania forces, and served in one or more campaigns on the northern frontier before he was of age, rising from a subordinate station to the rank of Captain. This expedition is alluded to by his father as being, in one respect, of no service to him. "Will"—says the Doctor, writing in 1750—

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* "Contributions to the Local History of Perth Amboy and surrounding country."

"is now nineteen years of age, a tall, proper youth, and much of a beau. He acquired a habit of idleness in the expedition, but begins of late to apply himself to business, and I hope will become an industrious man. He imagined his father had got enough for him, but I have assured him that I intend to spend what little I have myself, if it please God that I may live long enough; and as he by no means wants acuteness, he can see by my going on, that I mean to be as good as my word."

On his return to Philadelphia young Franklin seems to have become in a great degree the companion and assistant of his father in his various scientific and professional pursuits, and subsequently entered himself into official life. From 1754 to 1756 he acted as Comptroller of the General Post Office, then under the management of Dr. Franklin, and in January 1755—then holding in addition the Clerkship of the Provincial Assembly—he accompanied the troops that were sent under the command of the Doctor to build forts on the frontiers of Pennsylvania; and in June 1757, his father having been appointed Colonial Agent at London, he sailed with him for Europe.

William Strahan, his father's friend, a man of talent and discrimination, thus alludes to him in a letter written shortly after his arrival in England—

"Your son"—he is writing to Mrs. Franklin—"I really think one of the prettiest young gentlemen I ever knew from America. He seems to me to have a solidity of judgment, not very often to be met with in one of his years. This, with the daily opportunity he has of improving himself in the company of his father, who is at the same time his friend, his brother, his intimate and easy companion, affords an agreeable prospect, that your husband's virtues and usefulness to his country may be prolonged beyond the date of his own life."

Young Franklin entered upon the study of the law in the middle Temple and was called to the bar in 1758. He travelled with his father through England, Scotland, Flanders and Holland, and appears to have profited, as regards both mental and personal attainments, by the advantages which a visit to those countries under such favorable circumstances naturally afforded. Courted as was the society of his father by men of the highest literary and scientific acquirements, he could not but imbibe in such a circle a taste for similar pursuits, and we consequently find that when the University of Oxford in 1762 conferred upon the father, for his great proficiency in the natural sciences, the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, the son was thought worthy

of that of Master of Arts for having distinguished himself in the same branches of knowledge.*

It was in this year (August 1762) he was appointed through the influence of Lord Bute, and without any solicitation on the part of his father,† Governor of New Jersey; previously undergoing, it is said, a close examination by Lord Halifax, Minister of American Affairs;‡ deemed advisable perhaps on account of his colonial birth and youth, he at that time being only thirty years of age.

There were some persons who regarded this promotion of Mr. Franklin as an event deeply to be deprecated, and intimations are met with to the effect that it was only through the secresy observed by those concerned in obtaining the commission that remonstrance was not made and steps taken to counteract what was pronounced a dishonor and disgrace to the country.§ But I have failed to discover any deficiency in the abilities of Governor Franklin when compared with his predecessors, or any peculiarity in his political or private character that justifies the severity of these strictures. On the contrary the circumstances, above narrated, under which the appointment was made, are highly creditable to him—evincing as they do a confidence in his capacity for the office, and in his fidelity to the government, which was not wont to be reposed in those of colonial birth, unless some cogent reasons of policy prompted thereto, or strong claims to the preferment were presented;—and it is certain that the endeavors made to prejudice the people of New Jersey against their new Governor did not prevent his gathering around him as members of his Council gentlemen of the highest respectability and standing in the Province. It is not probable that such would have been the case had his talents and character been calculated only to entail misfortune on the people over whom he was placed.‖

About the time of his appointment Governor Franklin married Miss Elizabeth Downs—of whom recollections are, or were,

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* The New York Mercury of July 12th, 1762, thus announces this occurrence:—"Oxford, April 30th. Dr. Franklin, eminent for his many extraordinary improvements in electrical experiments, was presented by this University to the honorary degree of Doctor in Civil Law. At the same time his son, who has also distinguished himself in the same branch of natural knowledge, was presented to the honorary degree of Master of Arts."—*See Sparks' Franklin and Princeton Review, July* 1847.

† Life of Franklin by his Grandson. Vol. I. p. 309. (Edit. 1833.)

‡ Public Characters of Great Britain. Vol. IV.

§ See a Letter of John Penn's in Duer's Life of Lord Sterling—pp. 70, 71.

‖ Dr. Franklin in a letter to a friend dated Dec. 7th. 1762, says—"I thank you for your kind congratulations on my son's promotion and marriage. If he makes a

cherished by aged persons who knew her, as of an exceedingly amiable woman possessing many virtues and of very engaging manners. With her he arrived in the Delaware River in February 1763, and, after some detention from the ice, reached Philadelphia on the 19th, whence he started for New Jersey on the 23d. He slept at New Brunswick on the 24th, and arrived at Perth Amboy the following day.

He was escorted to the seat of government by numbers of the gentry, in sleighs, and by the Middlesex troop of horse; and was there received by Governor Hardy and the members of his Council. The weather was intensely cold, but that prevented not the administration of the oath of office and the proclamation of his commission in public, according to the usual forms;—a contemporary chronicler asserting that all was conducted "with as much decency and good decorum as the severity of the season could possibly admit of."*

A day or two afterward the Governor proceeded to Burlington to publish his commission there, according to the custom of the Province.†

Philadelphia having been the place of his previous residence, it was natural the Governor should find stronger attractions in West than in East Jersey, from the contiguity of former friends in the Province of Pennsylvania; he consequently, after some hesitation, secured lodgings at Burlington, and finally took up his permanent residence there until October 1774, when he removed to Perth Amboy, and became the occupant of the Proprietors' House, of late years enlarged, and improved, the residence of Mr. Matthias Bruen.

The Corporation of Burlington gave him a public entertainment before his removal to Amboy, and the following day presented their farewell address expressing their regard for him, thanking him for his kind deportment and courtesy shown during his stay,

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good governor and husband (as I hope he will, *for I know he has good principles, and a good disposition*) these events will, both of them, give me continual pleasure."—[*Sparks' Franklin, VII. p.* 242.] There can be but little doubt that the feeling manifested on the appointment of Governor Franklin was owing principally to the illegitimacy of his birth.

* New York Gazette.

† The usual addresses were presented. Those particularly noticed were from the Corporations of New Brunswick and Perth Amboy—the President and Trustees of the College, and a deputation of Presbyterian Ministers. The Governor, of course, 'would omit no opportunity of promoting the *general interests* of religion or of countenancing those of the particular profession of the gentlemen'—or, at least, said so. The Corporation of Elizabethtown gave a public entertainment to him and his lady at the Point, in June.—*Sparks Franklin, VII.* 254.

and regretting his departure. Neither the address nor the Governor's reply state why he left Burlington.

Almost immediately after his entrance upon his duties in New Jersey, the vexatious measures of the British ministry began to excite throughout the Colonies that abhorrence which eventually led to their separation from the mother country; and Governor Franklin—although favorably disposed towards the Colonies so long as no direct opposition to the authority of Parliament was manifested—advocated and enforced the views of the ministry with a devotion and energy worthy of a better cause.

It is well known that Dr. Franklin however strongly impressed he may have been with the incorrectness of the doctrines advanced by the British Parliament in relation to the Colonies, was far from advocating immediate independence. In his views he was not singular. There were few, if any, prior to 1775 who regarded such a remedy as necessary; and Franklin presumed that the yearly increasing importance of America to the various mercantile and manufacturing interests of Great Britain would at last work out for her that relief which was so earnestly desired. But, when convinced that nothing was to be hoped for from the delay, he became an ardent and uncompromising supporter of the Colonial cause.

Under date of October 6th, 1773, he thus states his own position and that of his sons. Referring to some letters of his which Governor Hutchinson of Massachusetts had represented to be advisatory of immediate independence, he says: "I shall be able at any time to justify every thing I have written, the purport being uniformly this, that they should carefully avoid all tumults and every violent measure, and content themselves with verbally keeping up their claim, and holding forth their rights whenever occasion requires. * * * * From a long and thorough consideration of the subject I am indeed of opinion that the Parliament has no right to make any law whatever binding on the Colonies. That the King, and not the King, Lords and Commons collectively, is their sovereign; and that the King, with their respective parliaments, is their only legislator. I know your sentiments [he was writing to the Governor] differ from mine on these subjects. You are a thorough government man, which I do not wonder at, nor do I aim at converting you, I only wish you to act uprightly and steadily, avoiding that duplicty which in Hutchinson, adds contempt to indignation. If you can promote the prosperity of your people, and leave them happier than you found them, whatever your political principles are, your memory will be honored."

Upon this letter the Doctor's grandson bases a refutation of the belief generally entertained that he endeavored to persuade the Governor to withdraw from the royal cause;* but an aged gentleman, who knew the facts, assured me some years since, that, when confirmed in his own course, and after his return to America in 1775, the Doctor visited his son at Perth Amboy, and strove zealously to draw him over to the side of the colonies; —that their conversations were sometimes attended with exhibitions of warmth not very favorable to continued harmonious intercourse, but each failed to convince the other of the impropriety of the course he was pursuing; and it is not probable the Doctor would have expressed his displeasure subsequently in such decided terms had not the Governor slighted his council. His son certainly followed his advice in "avoiding duplicity," for he did not hesitate to give manifest tokens of his determination to rise or fall with the royal cause.

One cannot help contrasting this visit of Doctor Franklin to Amboy and its attending circumstances with the one he had made half a century before. Then, a poor and unknown lad, seeking a place where he might earn his daily bread by laborious exertion, he had passed within the limits of the ancient city a night of feverishness and unrest, after a day of abstinence and exposure; and left it to prosecute on foot his journey of fifty miles to Burlington—drenched in rain and subjected to injurious suspicions.† Now, the man of science and the statesman, whose fame had extended to both hemispheres, came from a sojourn in foreign lands and from intercourse with the wise and great of the earth, to confer with his son—become a representative of royalty—in the very place from which he had made so miserable an exit.

Although the conspicuous part performed in the revolutionary drama by Governor Franklin constitutes the most important feature of his administration, yet he was too long in the executive chair not to contract a greater attachment to the Province than his flitting predecessors had done, and to become acquainted with the wants and aware of the evils under which its population labored. He appears in consequence to have exerted himself in a laudable manner to promote its prosperity. At different times he brought to the notice of the Assembly, and encouraged legislation relating to, the improvement of roads, the fostering of agriculture by the bestowment of bounties, the melioration of the laws prescribing imprisonment for debt; and it is thought, proved himself an active and efficient Governor, although in other respects

* Life of Franklin, Vol. I. p. 310.
† Franklin's Writings. Vol. I. 231.

than in approving the course of the British Ministry he failed to secure the approbation of the people; yet his known adherence to principles which were deemed inimical to popular rights was probably the foundation of most, if not all, the opposition shown to him.

It would however trench too much upon the province of history to narrate here the circumstances which called forth this opposition; it will suffice to remark, as illustrative of the character of the man apart from his public station—the principal aim of this sketch—that at these periods Governor Franklin while he evinced a determination to persevere in the course dictated by his sense of duty, does not seem to have acted in a way to attach any discredit to himself, other than that which accrues to the politician from acting contrary to the views of his opponents. At times, indeed, he sacrificed his own official popularity to the claims of personal friendship, and when assured of the correctness of his opinions, allowed no apprehensions of personal safety or of prejudice to his interests to interfere with their adaptation in practice to the promotion of the public welfare as understood by him.

During the entire period from the passage of the Stamp Act in 1765, until the receipt of Lord North's Declaratory project, the Governor, so far as his communications have come under my notice, observed a commendable prudence in his intercourse with the representatives of the people and with the people themselves; saying nothing which, considering his relations to the Crown, they could not excuse or extenuate; and we find consequently that a due degree of respect continued to be shown to him and his authority. Even at as late a period as February 1775, the representatives of the people were warm in their expression of attachment to the government of Great Britain. "We do solemnly, and with great truth assure your Majesty, that we have no thoughts injurious to the allegiance which, as subjects, we owe to you as our sovereign; that we abhor the idea of setting ourselves up in a state of independency, and we know of no such design in others." And again in November of that year the Assembly passed resolutions adverse to independence and directing the delegates of the Province in the Continental Congress to oppose any proposition of the kind. But they were called to act upon the measure proposed by Lord North, at a time when they had too recently seen the blood of friends and countrymen shed at Lexington, for them to regard it with the forbearance

they had previously exhibited, and from this point the intercourse with the Governor became less cordial.

It was at this period that dissension also for the first time appears to have entered the Council. Previously, so far as the sentiments of the members of that body have become public, they had, in the main, coincided with the Governor in his views. But in September of this year he felt called upon to suspend Lord Stirling, who was one of the members, in consequence of his acceptance of a military commission under the Provincial Congress, and shortly after, the communications which passed between the Council and the Governor began to evince in no small degree the growing estrangement which soon put an end to all harmonious action and left the Governor, unsupported, to stem the adverse tide of popular prejudice. Writing about this period to the Earl of Dartmouth the Governor feelingly remarks, "My situation is indeed somewhat particular and not a little difficult, having no more than one or two among the principal officers of government, to whom I, even now, speak confidentially on public affairs."*

The despatch containing this passage was intercepted on the 6th of January, 1776, by Lord Stirling, and led to the adoption of measures by that officer to prevent the escape of Governor Franklin, although there is no evidence that he had formed any such intention. He had declared to the Assembly that, unless compelled by violence, he should not leave the Province, and he stated in a letter addressed to the officer having command of the guard placed at his gate that 'such an assurance on his part was certainly equal to any promise he could make.' At the solicitation of the Chief Justice of the Province, however, he was induced to give his parole; and for some months continued, amid all the excitement and increasing difficulties of the time, to occupy his house in Amboy, and to exercise nominally the duties of his station.† But having issued a proclamation convening the Assembly on the 20th of June—having received despatches from the Ministry which he was anxious to lay before them—the Provincial Convention or Congress on the 14th of June pronounced the proceedings a direct contempt of the order of the Continental Congress which abrogated all foreign jurisdiction, and, in a series of resolutions which they adopted, expressed an opin-

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* Princeton Review, July 1847.

† Duer's Life of Lord Sterling, pp. 119, 121. Force's Doc. Hist. U. S.—Vol. IV. Princeton Review, July 1847.

ion that the proclamation ought not to be obeyed, and that thereafter no payments should be made to Gov. F. on account of salary; and three days thereafter he was arrested at Amboy by a detachment of militia under Colonel (afterwards General) Heard, of Woodbridge, accompanied by Major Deare of Amboy, whose authority for so doing was as follows:

"To Colonel NATHANIEL HEARD—

The Provincial Congress of New Jersey reposing great confidence in your zeal and prudence, have thought fit to intrust to your care the execution of the enclosed Resolves. It is the desire of Congress that this necessary business be conducted with all the delicacy and tenderness which the nature of the service can possibly admit of.

For this end, you will find among the papers the form of a written parole, in which there is left a blank space for you to fill up, at the house of Mr. Franklin, with the name of Princeton, Bordentown or his own farm at Rancocus. When he shall have signed the parole, the Congress will rely upon his honor for the faithful performance of his engagements; but should he refuse to sign it, you are desired to put him under a strong guard, and keep him in close custody until further orders. Whatever expenses may be necessary will be cheerfully defrayed by the Congress. We refer to your discretion what means to use for that purpose, and you have full power and authority to take to your aid whatever force you may require."

"By order of Congress,

SAMUEL TUCKER, President.

"In Provincial Congress, New Jersey, Burlington, June 15th 1776."

Governor Franklin indignantly refused to sign the parole, and he was therefore placed under guard. A report of their proceedings being made by the Provincial Convention to the Continental Congress, that body on the 19th June passed the follow-resolution—

"A letter from the Convention of New Jersey of the 18th, enclosing sundry papers, together with their proceedings in apprehending William Franklin, Esq., Governor of that Colony, was laid before Congress. Whereupon Resolved that it be recommended to the Convention of New Jersey to proceed on the examination of Mr. Franklin, and if, upon such examination, they shall be of opinion that he should be confined, to report such opinion to Congress, and then the Congress will direct the place

of his confinement: they concurring in sentiment with the Convention of New Jersey that it would be improper to confine him in that Colony."

A guard of sixty men had remained around the Governor's residence until communication could be had with the Convention. That body ordered him to be taken to Burlington, where, on the receipt of the above resolution, he was examined touching such points of his conduct as were deemed prejudicial to the interests of America. His royalty, firmness and self-posession remained unshaken under the ordeal. Conceiving that the Convention had usurped the authority it exercised, he denied the right of that body to interrogate him, and refused to answer any questions propounded. He was therefore declared an enemy to the country, and Lieut. Col. Bowes Reed was directed to keep him safely guarded until the pleasure of the continental Gongress should be known.

As has been stated, the arrest of Governor Franklin was based upon an alleged infraction or implied contempt of the resolution of the Continental Congress adopted 15th May preceding; but it is probable the proclamation referred to was only adopted as an *available* excuse for doing what had doubtless been for some time determined on.

It has been advanced as a reason for the interference at that precise time, that the object of the Governor was to create confusion in the administration of the public affairs by arraying the Assembly against the Convention. But it must be remembered that for more than a year, during which these two bodies had existed, there had been no conflicting action between them. More than one third of the members of the Convention in 1775 were also members of the Assembly, and there were many others of the latter body equally as well affected to the colonial cause; and although in the Convention of 1776, the number of the members of the Assembly in the Convention was reduced to seven, yet the political character of the Assembly remained unchanged, and I have failed to discover any documents that indicate a probability that the Governor could have moulded that body to any sinister views he may have entertained.

The Governor, however, in a long communication addressed to the Council and Assembly, which was written on the day of his arrest, reviews the plea of his opponents in the following warm and emphatic language.—

* * * * "The fact alledged is false, and must appear glaringly

so to every man who has read the resolve alluded to, and is capable of understanding it. The Continental Congress, after a preamble declaring their opinion "that the exercise of every kind of authority under the Crown should be totally suppressed," do then resolve that it be recommended to the respective *Assemblies* and Conventions of the united Colonies *where no governments sufficient to the exigencies of their affairs have been hitherto established*, to adopt such government as shall, in the opinion of the *representatives of the people* best conduce to the happiness and safety of their constituents in particular, and America in general." How any persons can construe and represent my calling a meeting of the *Assembly* at the very time when such an important matter was *recommended* by the Continental Congress to the consideration of *the Representatives of the people*, to be a "direct contempt and violation" of the above Resolve, is difficult to conceive, supposing them possessed of common sense and common honesty. The Assembly of Pennsylvania have met since that resolve, and I believe are still sitting, under an authority derived from the Crown. They, no doubt, have had the resolve under their consideration, nor can any good reason be given why the Assembly of New Jersey should not likewise be permitted the opportunity of giving their sentiments (if they should think it necessary or expedient) on a matter of such infinite importance to them and their constituents. If when you met, you had thought it proper to adopt or comply with the resolve, either in whole or in part, it is well known that I could not have prevented it, whatever my inclination might have been. In other colonies where a change of government has been made, one of the reasons assigned in excuse for such measure has been, that the Governor has either abdicated his government, appeared in arms against the people, or neglected to call a meeting of their representatives. But I do not recollect an instance where neither of these circumstances existed, and government could be carried on in the usual way, in such essential points as meetings of the Legislature, passing of Laws and holding Courts of Justice, that any material alteration has been made in such government by a convention; nor that any convention has before presumed to attempt a business of that importance where an assembly existed and were not hindered from meeting. Most probably had I not called the Assembly I should have been much blamed by those very men for the omission (especially as matters of such consequence were in agitation) and accused of not exercising the prerogative vested in me for the good of the people, as I ought to have done. But

however that may be, sure I am, that it is the evident meaning of the resolve of the Continental Congress that when assemblies can meet they are to consider the propriety of the measure recommended, and *not* Conventions.

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In a postscript, added after his arrival at Burlington, June 22d, 1776, he fortifies his position with further references to the course of the Delaware Assembly and Maryland Convention. He says:

"Since writing the above, I have seen a Pennsylvania newspaper of June 19th, in which it appears that Mr. McKean laid before the Assembly of the three lower counties a certified copy of the resolution of Congress of the 15th May last, which being taken in consideration by that house on the 15th instant, they resolved, among other things, that "*the representatives of the people in* THIS ASSEMBLY met, ALONE *can and ought* AT THIS TIME to establish such temporary authority—meaning the authority they had before determined to be expedient in the present exigency of affairs—"*until a new government can be formed.*" This Assembly met, as well as that of Pennsylvania, under an authority derived from the Crown, and so far from considering such a meeting as a contempt or violation of the resolve of the Continental Congress, they resolved they were the only proper persons to take that resolve into consideration, and to *establish such authority* as was deemed adequate to the occasion. The Assembly of New Jersey might certainly with equal propriety have done the same, had they been allowed to meet.

"It likewise appears by the newspapers that the Governor of Maryland on the 12th instant, had "issued a *proclamation* for dissolving the General Assembly of that Province, and to order writs of election to be issued to *call a new Assembly* returnable the 25th day of July next." But there is not the least surmise that the Provincial Convention of that Province have taken any offence at such proclamation, or so much as pretended to think the Governor had thereby acted in direct contempt and violation of the resolve of the Continental Congress, and was therefore such an enemy to the liberties of this country as that he ought to be tried and imprisoned. Yet the Maryland Convention have shewn as much spirit and regard for the liberties of America as any body of men on the continent. But they, it seems, are for peace, reconciliation and union with Great Britain on constitutional terms, and have too much sense and virtue to declare a Governor an enemy to the liberties of this country merely be-

cause he is an enemy to the liberties which such designing men are disposed to take with the old constitutional government."

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The Governor commented also at considerable length upon what he was pleased to term the evils of "independent republican tyranny" which he considered impending over the province, as well as upon the injustice with which he had personally been treated. For whatever of an offensive character this communication may contain, due allowance can now be made. To one of his impetuous disposition and high ideas of prerogative, it must have been exceedingly galling to be placed thus at the mercy of a self-constituted tribunal disposed to exercise the authority it had assumed without regard to any other power or jurisdiction whatever. May we not sympathize with the man, and regret the necessity which called for the rigor manifested towards him, without weakening our abhorrence of the principles which as an officer of the crown he felt bound to support! He had discrimination enough to perceive that the "independency" which the peoples' representatives had not hesitated so recently to deny to be the end and aim of their struggle with the mother country, was, in fact, the point to which they were fast tending; had it been less apparent to his mind his course would probably have been more in consonance with the popular will, so far as his opinions are known upon the matters of difference between the colonies and the parliament, they appear to have been such as to exonerate him—as he asserts in the communication just noticed—from any imputation of cherishing a disposition inimical to the interests of America; entertaining the conviction that by negotiation all the desired relief and redress could be secured. Doubtless the rapid development of the independent movement hastened his seizure.*

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* On the 22d June the Governor addressed a second letter to the Council and Assembly narrating the treatment received from his escort on his way to Burlington, and the circumstances connected with his examination. From his account of the transactions it would seem that unnecessary strictness was observed in excluding him from the society of friends, and in the restraints placed upon his personal movements. He concludes the letter thus—"Why they could not, if they were determined to usurp the powers of government, suffer me to remain quietly at my own home, as they do other Crown officers in the province, I have not heard. They well know I have not either levied or attempted to levy any troops against them, that I could not, had I been so inclined, have given any hindrance to their measures, and that I might have been of service to the country in case of a negotiation taking place. I can account for this conduct no otherwise than that they mean to shew, by tearing one in my station from his wife and family, how all-sufficient their present power is, and thereby to intimidate every man in the province from giving

The following extracts from the proceedings of the Continental Congress, mark the course of that body towards the Governor:

"Monday, June 24th, 1776.—A letter of the 21st from the Convention of New Jersey was laid before Congress and read, together with sundry papers enclosed therein, containing the questions proposed to William Franklin, Esq.,—an account of his behavior on the occasion, and the resolution of the Convention, "declaring him a virulent enemy to this country, and a person that may prove dangerous, and that the said William Franklin be confined in such place and manner as the Continental Congress shall direct." Whereupon

Resolved, That William Franklin be sent under guard to Governor Trumbull, who is desired to admit him to his parole; but, if Mr. Franklin refuse to give his parole, that Governor Trumbull be desired to treat him agreeably to the resolution of Congress respecting prisoners."

Governor Trumbull accepting the charge, he was taken to Connecticut forthwith, and quartered in the house of Capt. Ebenezer Grant at East Windsor; his lady being left in the city of New York.

On the 23d November Congress "Resolved that General Washington be directed to propose to General Howe an exchange of Wm. Franklin, Esq., late Governor of New Jersey for Brig. Gen. Thompson;" but on the 3d December, he was requested to suspend the execution of the order, should the negotiation with General Howe not have been commenced; and no farther mention of Governor Franklin is made until Tuesday, April 22d, 1777; it was then

"*Resolved*, That Governor Trumbull be informed that Congress has received undoubted information that William Franklin, late Governor of the State of New Jersey, and now a prisoner in Connecticut, has since his removal to that State sedulously employed himself in dispersing among the inhabitants the protections of Lord Howe and General Howe, stiled the King's Commissioners for granting pardons, and otherwise aided and abetted the enemies of the United States; and that he be requested forthwith to order the said William Franklin, Esq., into close confinement, prohibiting to him the use of pen, ink, and paper, or the access of any person or persons but such as are properly licensed for that purpose by Governor Trumbull."

Lord Howe had specially invoked the aid of all the governors who had been expelled from their provinces, in spreading his

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any opposition to their iniquitous course. But be the event what it may, I have, thank God, spirit enough to face the danger. *Pro Rege and Patria* was the motto I assumed when I first commenced my political life, and I am resolved to retain it till death shall put an end to my mortal existence."

"protections" among the people; and the foregoing resolution is indicative of the zeal with which Governor Franklin had obeyed the behest. It is probable that he remembered, among others, his neighbors at Amboy, one of the first of these documents that fell into the hands of General Washington having been directed to the inhabitants of that place.*

On the 22d July following the order of Congress for his close confinement, Governor Franklin applied to General Washington for a release on parole. His letter the General forwarded to Congress, accompanied by one from himself, which seems to convey a desire on his part that the request might be granted on account of the low state of Mrs. Franklin's health, which had sunk under the anxieties and sufferings which the state of the country and separation from her husband had entailed upon her. Congress however refused to grant the favor solicited; assigning as a reason that the intercepted letters of Governor Franklin had been such as to make it evident it would be inconsistent with the safety of the States to allow him any liberty whatever that would afford him opportunities for conferring with the enemy.†

Husband and wife consequently met no more in life. Mrs. Franklin died on the 28th of July, 1778, and the next evening, attended by a number of the most respectable inhabitants of the city, her remains were deposited within the chancel of St. Paul's Church. Her obituary notice in the Mercury of August 4th, proclaims her "a loving wife, an indulgent mistress, a steady friend, and affable to all"—characteristics which, from all that has come down to us, would seem by no means to embrace all of her estimable qualities. Ten years subsequently the Governor caused a tablet to be erected to her memory, which still occupies a place in the wall of the church, bearing the following inscription beneath the Franklin arms:

"Beneath the altar of this Church are deposited the remains of
Mrs. Elizabeth Franklin, wife of His Excellency,
William Franklin, Esq., late Governor under
His Britannic Majesty, of the *Province of New Jersey.*
Compelled by the adverse circumstances of the times to part
from the husband she loved, and at length
deprived of the soothing hope of his speedy return, she sank under
accumulated distresses, and departed this life on the
28th day of July, 1778, in the 49th year of her age.
Sincerity and Sensibility,

* Botta I., p. 36.

† Washington's Writings, Vol. V., p. 67.

Politeness and Affability,
Godliness and Charity,
were
with Sense refined and Person elegant, in her UNITED.
From a grateful remembrance of her affectionate tenderness and
constant performance of all the duties of a Good Wife,
This monument is erected, in the year 1789,
By him who knew her worth, and still laments her loss."

The firmness, energy, and indomitable perseverance with which Governor Franklin, under all circumstances, held fast to his royalty, were calculated to make his imprisonment longer than would otherwise have been the case, and we find Congress on the 20th August, 1778, by a deliberate vote, determining that it was inconsistent with the interests of the United States to consent to his exchange.* This was in consequence of an application from J. McKinley, Esq, late President of Delaware, to be exchanged for him, presented to Congress ten days previous. Mr. McKinley renewed his application on the 14th September, and after several amendments had been offered and rejected—one of them being a proposition to substitute Brig. Gen. Thompson for Mr. McKinley—the exchange was agreed to, and Governor Franklin returned to New York November 1st, 1778, having been a prisoner two years and four months.

Governor Franklin remained in New York for nearly four years, the companion of Rivington and other noted adherents of the royal cause, and was at one time—how long is not known—the President of the Associate Board of Royalists; in that capacity authorizing or sanctioning, it is said, much cruelty and oppression towards the Americans who were prisoners, but no specific acts have come to my knowledge, affording grounds either for doubting or believing the charge. This Board, it is thought, originated principally with another Jerseyman, Daniel Coxe, who was one of Gov. Franklin's Council. It consisted of deputies selected from the refugees of the different colonies, and was first organized in 1779. Its objects were the examination of captured Americans, or suspected persons, and the planning of measures

* The question was on granting consent to the exchange, and, as was usual, was taken by the States, and lost by a tie vote, as follows:

Ayes. N. H.; R. I.; Conn.; N. Y.; Md.; Va.;		6
Noes. N. C.; S. C.	2	
Divided. Mass.; N. J.; Penn.; Geo.	4	
	—	6

The votes of the individual members were ayes, 19; noes 10.

for procuring intelligence, or otherwise aiding the royal cause. Coxe was the first President, and was appointed to the chair,—so one of his fellow refugees has stated—"to deprive him of the opportunity of speaking, as he had the gift of saying little with many words."*

Governor Franklin finally sailed for England in August, 1782. In consideration of the losses he had been subjected to, £1800 were granted him by the English Government, and he was allowed in addition a pension of £800 per annum; placing him, so far as his annual income was effected, in a better condition probably than he would have enjoyed had he remained in his government, although a contemporary writer states that both indemnity and pension were considered inadequate to remunerate him for all he had sacrificed.† After leaving America he married again; the lady being a native of Ireland. He died Nov. 17, 1813, aged 82.

Benjamin West, in his picture representing the "Reception of the American Loyalists by Great Britain, in the year 1783," introduces him as one of the prominent personages at the head of the group of figures; and in the description of the picture he is mentioned as having "preserved his fidelity and loyalty to his sovereign from the commencement to the conclusion of the contest, notwithstanding powerful incitements to the contrary."‡

During the whole of the revolutionary struggle, there was no intercourse between Dr. Franklin and his son; and the mutual estrangement continued, in a great degree, even after the cause was removed by the restoration of peace and acknowledgment of the independence of America. The first advances towards a reconciliation appear to have been made by the Governor, in a letter dated July 22, 1784; which the Doctor answered from Passy on 16th August following. In his letter he says: "Nothing has ever hurt me so much, and affected me with such keen sensations, as to find myself deserted in my old age by my only son, and not only deserted, but to find him taking up arms against me in a cause wherein my good fame, fortune, and life were all at stake." He intimates to him that neutrality at least should have been observed on his part, but, as he desired it, is willing to forget the past as much as possible.

The treatment of his son, however, ever continued to afflict him. In a letter written on January 1st, 1788, to the Rev. Dr. Byles, of Boston, he thus feelingly alludes to it, after adverting

*Sabine's Loyalists, 232.

† Public characters of Great Britain. Commission on Claims of Amer. Loyalists.

‡ Sabine's Loyalists.

to the comfort derived from the presence of his daughter; "My son is estranged from me by the part he took in the late war, and keeps aloof, residing in England, whose cause he *espoused*, whereby the proverb is exemplified:

> 'My son is my son till he gets him a wife,
> But my daughter is my daughter all the days of her life.'"

In his will he left the Governor his Nova Scotia lands with such books and papers as were in his possession, and released him from the payment of all debts that his executors might find to be due from him. The devise to him concluding with: "The part he acted against me in the late war, which is of public notoriety, will account for my leaving him no more of an estate he endeavored to deprive me of."*

This estrangement of Doctor Franklin from his son is an instance of the inevitable separation of families and friends, which is one among the many evils ever attendant on a civil war. Various as are the characters, dispositions, tastes and habits of mankind, it can never be reasonably anticipated that in those conflicts of opinion which precede the disruption of empires or communities, the ties of consanguinity or association are to prove sufficient for every emergency and withstand the corroding influence of selfishness, prejudice or error.

If the war to which we owe our independence as a nation this evil in every degree of magnitude was painfully manifested; and probably not one of the colonies, in proportion to its population and extent, suffered more from it than New Jersey. Having less of foreign commerce and of inland traffic than many of her sister colonies in which to employ the industry and enterprise of her youth, numbers of the higher classes were accustomed to look for preferment in the administration of the Provincial Government, or to seek for honor and profit in the naval and military service of the mother country; and many were sent to England by anxious parents to secure those advantages of education which were not afforded by the literary institutions of America. These circumstances necessarily involved associations which led in many instances to marriages into families abroad, or into such as were temporarily located in the province, while the introduction of the royal regiments, which took place some years before the Revolution, caused similar unions between their officers and the daughters of New Jersey.

Independent, therefore, of all pecuniary or other interested

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* Franklin's Writings, I. p. 398.; X, pp. 121, 330.

reasons for hesitation, both young and old among the inhabitants of the Province became thus, in various ways, involved in the important and solemn enquiry how to reconcile their love of country or allegiance to their king with considerations of personal or domestic happiness. Happy were they whose situation admitted of a decision which did not jeopardize either: but this in a large number of instances was impossible. Mothers were doomed to see their children at open variance upon whose heads their blessings had with equal fondness descended. Fathers found themselves arrayed in opposition to their sons, and that too, in a contest in which the lives of one and all were at stake. Wives beheld in agony their husbands armed with weapons that were to be used against their friends and countrymen, or perchance against their own brethren; and friends, between whom no personal dissension had ever existed, ranged themselves under different banners to seal with their blood their adherence to political principles which where made to engulph every tender emotion of their hearts.

These are no random assertions. Family histories would bring to light many cases of this painful characteristic of our revolutionary struggle, and the case of Governor Franklin is but one of many that are similar.

Governor Franklin's love of books in his early life, at a later period, naturally led him to collect them, and before the revolution he had amassed a large library, which, on his leaving Amboy, was packed in cases and deposited by Mrs. Franklin within the British lines. The warehouse in which they were placed happened to contain a quantity of military stores that were subsequently burned, and the books shared the same fate.* His writings that are met with, although they exhibit no particular superiority of mind or elegance of composition—and are, perhaps, less remarkable than we might expect from the advantages of education and association he had enjoyed—yet give evidence of literary attainments which compare favorably with those of most of the prominent men of that day in the colonies. He was of a cheerful, facetious disposition; could narrate well entertaining stories to please his friends; was engaging in his manners, and possessed good conversational powers. He lived in the recollection of those who saw him in New Jersey, as a man of strong passions, fond of convivial pleasures, well versed in the ways of the world, and, at one period of his life not a stranger to the

* Public Characters, IV.

gallantries which so frequently marred the character of the men of that age. He was above the common size, remarkably handsome, strong and athletic, though subject to gout toward the close of his life.

He had only one child, William Temple Franklin, who resided in France, became the biographer of his grandfather, and died at Paris, May, 25th, 1823.

Such, imperfectly sketched, was the career of the last of our colonial governors. More of interest might have been imparted to the narrative, had it been prepared with reference to its being read before the Society; but the materials for a full and satisfactory biography of William Franklin are yet wanting. It is much to be regretted that his papers, which were carried to France by his son, cannot be regained.

It is remarkable how imperfectly known are all those who, during the provincial existence of New Jersey, wielded the chief executive authority. Of a few, from their ruling over New York and other colonies, some information may be gleaned, but of them *as Governors of New Jersey* we have very little that can be relied upon respecting their characters, habits, attainments or adventures. Doubts rest even upon the identity of some of them, and Governor Franklin himself is frequently confounded with his son William Temple Franklin. With the brevity almost of the Scripture annunciation—"So Tibni died and Omri reigned," our historians Smith and Gordon present and withdraw their local potentates like the passing figures of a magic lantern, leaving it to the imagination in many cases to determine whence they came or whither went, and enveloping in dim uncertainty the brief exhibition afforded of their respective careers.

As members of this Society, therefore, no slight responsibility rests upon us. We owe it to the state—to the whole country—to search out "the hidden things of old"—to rescue from the merciless tooth of time and the obliterating mould of neglect the forgotten annals of New Jersey. All may be assured, that the task, however attended it may be with toil and discouragement, is not without its pleasures, and biographical researches, particularly, will be found full of interest and usefulness.

"A kingdom is a nest of families," and the constituent parts of the history of every community are the acts of the individuals who compose it. In that fact lies the value—the charm—of all private history:—not only the private history of public men, but also of those whom their fellows may term humble individ-

uals ;—for it is not always in the power of cotemporaries to discern the bearing, or the historical value of many an event that occurs—of, so-called, trifling circumstances—

"But trifles, lighter than straws, are levers in the building up of character"—

developing traits and qualities which make the possessor known and felt in the community. The most prominent actors are not always the best judges of the merit which attaches to their own performance, and in the great drama of Life, as in the mimic representations of the stage, much may depend upon him who plays a humble part. Each has his duties,—each must share the responsibility.

In one of the legislative halls at Washington is a Time-piece whose device ever struck me as impressing forcibly upon all their obligations to the age in which they live. In the car of Time, on the periphery of whose wheels the hours are marked, stands the Muse of History, recording in a book the events which transpire before her as the wheels of her chariot tell the revolving hours :—by her attitude and expression reminding the assembled representatives of the nation, that the history of each passing moment receives from them its impress, is stamped indelibly, by their proceedings, with characteristics which must redound to the welfare or the dishonor of the republic.

We may all, in our respective spheres, heed the lesson. As citizens of the state—as portions of the several communities in which we reside—as members of this Society, let us ponder the responsibilities and duties which rest upon us, and in proportion to our faithfulness shall be our reward.